

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION  
December 3, 2014**

**Members Present:** Chair English, Vice Chair Schuetz, Potts, Hauser and Kane

**Members Absent:** Dechene and Pietryla

**City Staff Present:** Matthew O'Rourke  
Karla McCleary, Recording Secretary

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was convened by Chair English at 7:03 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Potts and seconded by Vice Chair Schuetz to approve the agenda.

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Dechene and Pietryla

Motion Carried.

**3. Approval of minutes from November 5, 2014**

A motion was made by Hauser and seconded by Potts to approve the November 5, 2014 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Dechene and Pietryla

Motion Carried.

**4. Discussion Items**

**A. Brainstorming and 2015 Work Planning**

Chair English said he is pleased with the landscape improvements that have been made on the eastside. As an example, he referenced SavWay Liquors and the simplistic upgrades that were made that created a very nice, clean look.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if Gabby's Restaurant had received any landscape assistance from the City and O'Rourke stated they had not.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if there was a way to incorporate more greenery in the downtown area along Main Street and then continue to the eastside of St. Charles. He suggested replicating what the City of Geneva does with having pots of flowers displayed throughout the downtown area. O'Rourke said the Illinois Department of Transportation IDOT prefers to not have items along Route 64 that could potentially cause road blockage resulting from an accident. Vice Chair Schuetz said they could use pots that move easily and would not have to be made of heavy cement. Kane asked if IDOT has expressed these concerns recently. O'Rourke said yes they have. The Downtown St. Charles Partnership (DSCP) has been talking with IDOT regarding placement of Adirondack chairs on the sidewalks along Main Street. Chair English said they have to remember that Route 64 is a state road. Vice Chair Schuetz asked how Geneva gets away with having large pots along Route 38 with that also being a state road. O'Rourke said this could be done along Main Street too with the understanding that a process will need to be followed to get approval from IDOT. O'Rourke added that they must be ADA compliant. There must be 5 feet of sidewalk accessibility to accommodate wheelchairs. Potts suggested using containers that are rectangular in shape, not as deep and more like a planter. O'Rourke stated he thinks that is possible and it really comes down to how we initiate this and determine how many hoops we want to work through. In addition, some businesses may not be interested or they may not have the space, said O'Rourke.

Kane suggested CVS Pharmacy at the corner of Rt. 38 and Eastside Drive in Geneva, as another simplistic landscape example to take a look at and consider using in St. Charles.

Vice Chair Schuetz suggested driving from Randall Road east to Kirk Road to see what spaces are available for improvements.

Chair English suggested the Citgo gas station on Main Street. O'Rourke said they tried to talk with someone there but could not get anyone to speak with him.

Vice Chair Schuetz mentioned the Shell Gas Station on E. Main Street. O'Rourke said Melia Linardos owns that property. Vice Chair Schuetz stated that may be good since we have already dealt with her.

Potts suggested the Yurs Funeral home property and Baker Church as they offer a fair amount of green space.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if there is a planter by the wall where Amlings used to be. Potts stated there is not; it is just a wall.

Vice Chair Schuetz mentioned adding something more to the landscape at the Post Office on the eastside to make it more prolific.

Chair English asked about a grant that was given in the beginning of the year for landscape improvements at Cedar Ave. and Route 64, and nothing has been done. O'Rourke said the grant got approved and nothing happened because they found every kind of underground utility at this location.

Potts said the Hoscheit office on east Main Street has some frontage along with the Wickman building on the other corner that has frontage area that used to be railroad. Both of these spaces are fairly large and visible and Wickman has always been receptive to plantings. O'Rourke said the railroad still owns that parcel and it is rail road right of way.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked about a landscape design that was created for Tom Anderson and Colonial on the corner and what his intentions are. O'Rourke said he has been trying to reach Tom but he has not returned his calls. In addition, O'Rourke stated that Tom was considering doing some landscape improvements on another property that he owns on State Street.

O'Rourke said there will be projects coming up regarding the signs and he asked the commissioners if they want to approach people about this. Vice Chair Schuetz stated that they had talked about this and there will probably be several businesses interested. O'Rourke said he and Bob Vann will go through the list to determine who the most likely candidates are. Vice Chair Schuetz asked who would be available to do landscape design in addition to Potts. O'Rourke said a business can still hire their own designer and we will still pay 75% of the design fee. O'Rourke stated that he has had conversations with Linda Stewart and they she is working with Super 8 and Best Western Hotels. Potts said both have a fair amount of green space in front of their buildings. Vice Chair Schuetz stated they have spent all the money from this year's budget. O'Rourke said even though all the money from this year's budget has been spent, they can get businesses started with the approval process and April and then have them approved officially in May. Vice Chair Schuetz asked if O'Rourke will be submitting for the new budget. O'Rourke said yes he will and he will request \$25,000 and then figure out how many signs will be needed and then add that amount on to that.

Chair English stated that the cars on pedestals and the landscaping improvements that were made at Baltria Classic Cars on east Main Street, look great.

Vice Chair Schuetz what the former Cadillac dealership, that experienced water issues, is required to do. O'Rourke said they will replace the shade trees, shrubs and some of the grasses to simulate what was there.

Chair English recapped what had been discussed up to this point, stating they would like to continue improvements on Main Street and concentrate more on the east side with the amortization of the signs as well as work on some of the corners. Chair English suggested each commissioner drive around looking for under-utilized space.

O'Rourke said he will come to the next meeting with a list of who he thinks will ask for a grant for their signs. Vice Chair Schuetz asked if they should bring the list of spaces they locate to the next meeting or email them to Karla. O'Rourke said they can email them to him or Karla. O'Rourke may use that information and put together an aerial of all of the locations. Vice Chair Schuetz asked if O'Rourke could find out who owns some of the properties. O'Rourke said he could try but sometimes they're in trusts and LLC's. Chair English cautioned that sometimes the corners could be public right-of-way. O'Rourke agreed and added that if the spaces are located on Route 64 they may need to work with IDOT. Hauser asked if they should email

photos as well. O'Rourke said no, just provide the addresses and he can measure each space with the software that he has.

Potts suggested putting back some of the trees that were removed from the median across from Charlestowne Mall. O'Rourke said they can look into that with the questions being: the cost and who would do the work. Maybe this could become a Boy Scout project said O'Rourke. Regarding implementation of a maintenance program after the trees are planted, O'Rourke stated that this may already be on the City maintenance schedule and we can check into that.

Potts asked about the City sign that they had discussed at an earlier meeting and what was decided about placement. O'Rourke stated he may try to work with Baltria and ask if we can put the sign on their property since the useable right-away was taken away by the Route 64 expansion. Hauser asked if they could put it in the median. O'Rourke said IDOT would not let them and the median would not be big enough. Vice Chair Schuetz said they also thought about putting the sign along Rt. 31. O'Rourke said he is not sure if the City is willing to do that. Chair English said along Rt. 25 was another suggestion and also there is plenty of room by the bridge out by the high school. O'Rourke said he is taking an amendment proposal to the Planning & Development Committee Meeting on Monday to change the code to allow this.

## **5. Additional Business**

O'Rourke said the code updates are going to the Planning & Development Committee Meeting on Monday night.

O'Rourke confirmed everything has been taken care of at McDowell and Fydoland as it relates to Corridor Improvement Grants provided to them in 2014.

## **6. Announcements and Upcoming Meeting Dates**

There were no announcements.

Next meeting date – January 7, 2015 - if nothing comes in the meeting may be postponed

## **7. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Kane to adjourn the meeting.

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Dechene and Pietryla